

**Amendment to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

[5] In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, a data slicer includes a first comparator circuit that establishes a first threshold, a second comparator circuit that establishes a second threshold, and a third comparator circuit that establishes a third threshold, wherein the second threshold is greater than the first threshold and less than the ~~first~~third threshold. Each of the comparator circuits has an offset and the first and third comparator circuits have symmetrical offsets.